

City of Renton Customer Information Bulletin

Frequently Asked Questions on Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations for Business Owners/Managers

City of Renton Development Services Division
1055 South Grady Way-Renton, WA 98055
Phone: 425-430-7200 Fax: 425-430-7231

What are the Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations?

New Renton City Regulations designed to provide a means for prompt retrieval of lost, stolen or abandoned shopping carts in order to promote public safety and improve the image and appearance of the City. Furthermore, these regulations are aimed at preventing the illegal removal of shopping carts from business premises, preventing the possession of illegally removed carts, and preventing the accumulation of illegally removed carts on residential properties.

What is a Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Plan?

Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Plans detail the business' approach to retention and retrieval of all carts owned by a business.

In order to show the business' ability to retain its shopping carts, it must demonstrate its approach to: 1) sign placement; 2) notice to customers that it is against City and state laws to remove shopping carts from the premises; 3) employee training; and, 4) any other measures to containing shopping carts on site through physical or alternative measures.

The retrieval portion of the plan must detail the number of personnel allocated for cart retrieval, demonstrate of prompt retrieval of all carts which are identified as lost, stolen or abandoned, and determine the area to be covered in the business' retrieval plan.

Please refer to the Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Guidance Document for more information and assistance in the creation of your containment and retrieval plan.

When do I need to submit a Cart Containment and Retrieval Plan?

Containment and Retrieval plans are required to be filed with the Development Services Director within **6 months** of the opening of the business or for all current businesses, within **6 months** of the effective date of this ordinance (**July 18th, 2005**). Plans are due by **January 18th, 2006**.

All plans must be submitted to the Development Services Division located at Renton City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98055, on the 6th floor in the Customer Service Center.

What is the cost associated with the submittal and approval of a plan?

A one-time Containment and Retrieval Plan fee of *\$100.00 US dollars* is assessed at the submittal or modification of the business' Containment and Retrieval Plan.

What fines will the City charge for impounded carts?

The City may impound any shopping cart not retrieved by its owner after the owner has received a verbal notice one day prior. The City shall charge a fee to the owner of a shopping cart if the owner fails to retrieve the cart in the amount of a \$50 fine for each cart.

Is there a form that I need to fill out for the Containment and Retrieval Plan?

No, Containment and Retrieval Plans are to be designed by the business. A guidance document is available at the Development Services Division located at Renton City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98055, on the 6th floor in the Customer Service Center.

The Guidance Document is also available online at www.ci.renton.wa.us. To access this information through the City of Renton's website, go to the above address and:

1. Click on the work 'Download'
2. Scroll down to 'Planning/Building/Public Works'
3. Click on 'Building Permit Applications and Submittal Requirements'
4. Print out Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Guidance Document'

Are there any businesses that are exempt from the regulations?

Any retail establishment, which provides a total of 10 or fewer shopping carts, is exempt from the requirements of the Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations.

Any business which implements a locking device on its carts is exempt from any fee associated with the City's impoundment of shopping carts.

What happens if I do not submit a plan for my business?

Any business, which has not submitted a Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Plan within 6 months of establishment of the business or before January 18th 2006 for all current business, is subject to standard code compliance procedure. Failure to comply will result in a civil penalty for each day the business is not in compliance.

Who Do I Contact if I Have Additional Questions?

If you have further questions regarding the City's Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations or the requirements of the Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Plan; please visit the Land-Use Customer Counter on the 6th floor of City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way, or call **(425) 430-7200**.